

T H E R E H E A R S A L.

1. What *Comprehension* is. Our *Dissenters* got Above it.
2. They will give no *Toleration* to the *Church of England*.
3. The *Vindictor* denies that ever the *Dissenters* propos'd a *Comprehension*, or wou'd *Close* with it.
4. He despises the *Compliance* of Mr. *Baxter*, &c. And tells Us, Times are Alter'd.
5. This the Effect of so much *Indulgence* towards them. The Wisdom of *Holland*, as to the Frame of their *Legislatur*.
6. They have a better way than *Tests*.
7. The folly of Pleading *Birth-Right* as to the *Legislature*.
8. No hardship in Excluding Different *Persuasions* from the *Legislature*.
9. Especially in the *Present Case*.

WEDNESDAY, July 23. 1707.

(1.) *Country-man.* **I** Fancie, *Master*, by what You told me of our *English* *Dissenters* last time, That they have the o'th business of *Comprehension* in their heads. For we see they are not Content with a *Toleration*. *Rehearsal.* They are got far out of your Sight, *Country-man*. You follow them but slowly. They are got above all these small *Dispensations*! What is *Comprehension* but,

To Unite Men and their differant *Maggots*. As *Long* and *Short* Sticks are in *Faggots*.

So you may have your *Maggot*, and I may have mine. Then ther will be Peace and Quietness! will ther not?

Country-m. Unless these *Maggots* happen to *Cross-Bite* one another. As nothing so Common among *Religious Maggoteers*.

Rehearsal. Therefore our *Dissenters* will be as little pleas'd with a *Comprehension* as with a *Toleration*. Ther is a Sort of a *Toleration* Imply'd in a *Comprehension*. And the *Scottish Kirk* have Declar'd all *Toleration* to be *Establishing Iniquity by a Law*. And the *Vindictor* of our *English* *Dissenters* has, in their Names, Declar'd, that they are upon the same Foot with the *Presbyterians* in *Scotland*, and upon *None other*, as I Quoted him in my Last.

(2.) *Country-m.* Bless Us! Then if they shou'd Prevail, we shou'd not have a *Toleration* for the *Church of England*!

Rehearsal. Such as they gave you last time, and now of late in *Scotland*! And after the *Clergy* had been Deliver'd up to the *Mob*, to be Rabbl'd by them at *Discretion*,

and then *Prosecuted*, *Imprison'd*, and *Banish'd* by *Law*, and *Episcopacy* totally overthrown by *Act of Parliament*, they will Prove to you, after all this (as they have done to those in *Scotland*) That it is a great Mistake to think that you were *Persecuted* at all, ther was no such thing! And that you Enjoy not only a *Toleration*, but a full and free *Comprehension*! See before Num. 81, 95, 96, 97. 103.

Country-m. I pray *God* keep us out of their *Clutches*. But *Master*, is it so, That they are now Grown so High here in *England* as to Despise even a *Comprehension*? Then it is Plain what they *Drive at*, and have in View.

(3.) *Rehearsal.* Their *Vindictor* says, p. 28. that *Comprehension* is a *Many-headed-Monster*. And adds, I believe the *Challenge* may very Modestly be Made, in the Name of the *Dissenters in ENGLAND*, to any *Man* to prove that a *Comprehension* had ever its *Rise* among them, or that any *Dissenter* ever *closed* with it.

Country-m. Whence then had it its *Rise*? Did the *Church* Propose it, and Offer it to the *Dissenters*; and did the *Dissenters* Refuse to *Close* with it? If so, the *Church* has been very Unjustly Charg'd with being over *Rigorous* and *Stiff* to the *Dissenters*. And the want of *Moderation* lay on the other side.

But I have heard that the *Dissenters*, once upon a Day, wou'd have been very Glad to have Gain'd a bare *Toleration*, far more a *Comprehension*. And that Mr. *Baxter* and several others of their most Famous *Teachers*, did *Comply* and *Conform* to a very Great degree, so as to shew that they thought not the *Communion of the Church of England* any way *Unlawful*.

(4.)

(4.) *Rehears.* The *Vindicator* answers that in this same Place, p. 28. and says, *What is the Compliance of Mr. Baxter, &c. to these things? What was then done, is near Fifty Years ago; And the State of things is somewhat Altered since that time; For 'tis otherwise now.*

Country-m. So it seems indeed! And is this all we have Got by our *Tolerating* the *Dissenters*, and *Courting* them at such a Prodigious rate; that they are now farther off from Us than Ever! That they *Scorn* and *Trample* upon the *Compliance* of their former *Leaders*, and are Got up to the Tip Top of the *Pinacle*! Are not these the *High-Flyers*?

But, *Master*, they are Resolv'd to let none of your Words fall to the Ground. You always told us this wou'd be the Effect of *Indulging* them, and putting Power into their hands. That they wou'd always Act according to the full Power they had, and make use of it to get More; And never Rest till they had the Whole.

(5.) *Rehears.* This was easily Collected (without the Spirit of *Prophecy*) by observing the same Steps by which they Rose to Power before, and at last Engros'd the Whole, both in *Church* and *State*, into their own Hands.

But without Remembring former Times, (which is now thought Invidious) I will Desire to do them no other Wrong, than to suppose that they are *Men*, and, if they Please, *Conscientious Men*. Now is no Man who is in Earnest with *Religion*, but wou'd wish all the World to be of his Mind. And ther is no Man but wou'd Desire that *Church* or *Perswasion* he is of to Prosper, and to Prevail. And wou'd Endeavour it by all Lawful means. Therefor I must still be of my own Opinion, That whatever *Indulgence* or *Toleration* as to *Religion* is Granted on Account of *Conscience*, yet that where Men of Different *Perswasions*, and Opposite to Each other, are Admitted into the *Legislature*, or to *Vote* for the *Members* of it, ther must be a Perpetual Struggle in such a Frame, and from such *Convulsions* ther is a Continual Danger to the whole *Constitution*. For this I propos'd the Example of *Holland*, where tho' ther is *Toleration* to the full as to *Religion*, yet none of a Different *Religion* from that of the *States*, have any Access to the *Government*, to be a *Member* of the *States*, or in the *Magistracy*. They make use of them for *Soldiers* in their *Army*, but they must not meddle with their *Constitution*. And I believe every Body will Allow me, and can see it at first Sight, That if all the Different *Perswasions* in *Religion* that are *Tolerated* in *Holland*, were Admitted into the *States General*, they wou'd not be so *Unanimous* as they are, nor their *Constitution* so safe.

(6.) And they stand not upon *Niceties*, how Much or how Little you Differ from them; Or whether you can Occasionally Communicate with them; Nor do they put any *Tests* to you; But if you go to any other *Communion*, they Reasonably Conclude that you have something nearer at Heart than their *Constitution*, and will not give you the Opportunity to *Supplant* it, by having any *Vote* in it.

(7.) The Argument of *Birth-Right*, in this Case is Ridiculous. For ther is not a Country in the World (*England* not Excepted) where Men are not Excluded the *Legislature*, and that meerly on Account of their *Religion*.

(8.) Nor is it any Hardship to them. For whoever is of a Different *Perswasion* from the *Church Establish'd* in any Country, ought to think himself very well Dealt with, if he be suffer'd to Enjoy his own *Perswasion* to himself. But to Desire a *Vote* in the *Legislature* is manifestly saying, Put me in a way to overturn your *Constitution*, as far as in my Power, and to make all the *Parties* and *Factions* I can against it. And *Experience* has made good, and ever will make good, all that I have said. For it is Founded upon Plain and Undeniable Reason.

(9.) *Country-m.* Especially where a *Party* declare themselves *Ir-Reconcilable*, and that no *Concessions* will Please them, less than giving up all.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T S.

THe Bishop of *Salisbury's* proper defence, from a Speech cry'd about the Streets in his Name, and said to have been spoken by him in the House of Lords upon the Bill against Occasional Conformity.

Sacrifice the Divine Service, from the *Covenant of Grace*, to the Consummation of the Mystery of Man's Redemption. By *J. Scandret*, Priest of the Church of *England*: To which is prefix'd a Letter to the Author, from the Reverend Mr. *Charles Leslie*; Chancellor of the Cathedral of *Connor*, in the Kingdom of *Ireland*.

A Parallel between the Faith and Doctrine of the present Quakers, and that of the Chief Hereticks in all Ages of the Church. And also a Parallel between *Quakerism* and *Papery*. **C**assandra (but I hope not) telling what will come of it, 2 parts, in answer to the Occasional Letter.

THe Wolf Script of his Shepherds Cloathing in answer to a late Celebrated Book intitul'd *Moderation a Virtue*.

A Collection of papers concerning what hath been Transacted in the Convocation.

The Principles of the Dissenters concerning Toleration and Occasional Conformity.